Transfiguration

A MOUNTAIN-TOP MESSAGE.

Mark 9:2 And Jesus taketh with him Peter and James and John and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them."

Intro. My boyhood dislike for the transfuguration scene.
Too fantastical and spooky to seem real
Like the seances of the spiritualists
Like the meaningless rhapsodies of the Holy Rollers

A waste of time, foolish and selfish, which might be better spent in the valley helping sinning, groveling, suffering humanity.

Some religions never get beyond the holy picnic stage. Their devotees seek a soul-fest, an emotional thrill- introspective, meditative, hysterical, gullible.
Absorbed in its own mental states, it forgets the sobbing suffering world.
My idea of eligion has always been that it must be practical, it must get somewhere, it must reach out and help, it must accomplish good.
Religion that is not practical and helpful cannot be too strongly condemned.

Well, since I have grown up and become somewhat richer in experience, I have discovered a truer interpretation of the Transfiguration than my boyhood surface-view of it.

I. The Transfiguration was heaven's assurance to Jesus and the disciples.

If Jesus was human enough to become tired, hungry, sleepy and exhausted, he must have bee human enough to have seasons of doubts and misgivings.
In the Garden Jesus seemed to have a doubt in mind," "If it be possible let this cup pass from me".
At times he may have wondered whether, afterall, he really was the man he thot he was- the Christ of the world.
Surely Jesus had a right to some assurance from God as to His divine mission. In his trying to build up the faith of others what a tragedy it would be if his own faith failed!
And facing the Cross, as he did, such divine assurance was ncessary to sustain the man Jesus.

2. This Transfiguration was also an assurance to the disciples. During the coming trying days they would lose their hope and courage and they would need heaven's influence to bring them back. The Transfuguration helped the disciples to understand the resurrection, after Christ had been crucified.

3. And to us it is also an assurance from Heaven.
So much mystery about life -about God and Christ and ourselves.
We need this assurance for our times of doubt and trial.

II. The Transfiguration was a revelation of immortality, a witness to the fact that death does not end all, that people who die are not dead but still live and still are concerned with our welfare here upon this earth.

Peter and James and John had never seen Moses and Elias, yet they knew them at once!
The reality of the spiritual world is here revealed.
Why, then, should we mourn over our loved ones who have departed this earth as tho we were parted from them forever?
After 2000 yrs Moses and Elias still interested in the current events of earth!
So long as God is interested in human affairs just so long will his children who have gone before also be interested.
I have a right to believe that my mother and father are just as interested in my welfare as they where when they were stil here upon earth.
"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,
O what a foretaste of glory divine'"

III. The Transfiguration was a Preparation.
Look at the other disciples at the foot of the mt there in the valley below. They were trying to heal a man's son but could not. Watch the radiant Christ descend the mt., join the crowd and heal the boy!
I do not believe that all the radience of his countenance had left him up on the mt. I believe that his face still shone with the glory of that wonderful experience.
Danial Webster's face shone for hours after he delivered his Bunker Hill address.
The Holy Spirit lights up the faces of

3. those who hold mountain-top communion with God.

But the great thing about this incident is not that the face of Jesus shone with heaven's light, but that he he came down into the valley and healed the sick!

God gives us a great hour with Him on the mountain-top that we may give Him a great day of service in the the valley below to our sinning, groveling, suffering fellows.

This church needs the assurance, the revelation, and the preparation of the Transfiguration to enable its every officer and member and every department of its work to render that superior service to the community with will ~~enable~~ bring back the people to their God and Savior.